

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02 /139 W

-----092156 112249Z /45

R 111158Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0200

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USEEC

PASS STR FOR WOLFF

ITP FOR BARRACLOUGH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD

SUBJ: AGENDA FOR CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF 18 (CG-18)

REF: GENEVA 6425

1. GATT SECRETARIAT TELLS US THAT AGENDA ITEM ADDED BY EC, THE DEFINITIVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GATT, REMAINS ON CG-18 AGENDA. SECRETARIAT WILL HOLD OFF CIRCULATING AGENDA UNTIL WEEK OF AGUSUT 22, BUT WILL INCLUDE EC AGENDA ITEM UNLESS EC ASKS FOR ITS DELETION FROM AGENDA.

2. WE CHECKED WITH ABBOTT (EC) AND HE INDICATED THAT, AS FAR AS HE KNOWS, EC INTENDS TO LEAVE ITEM ON AGENDA. HE ADDED THAT EC WAS GENUINELY SURPRISED AT U.S. REACTION WHEN
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ITEM WAS PROPOSED AT PREPARATORY MEETING JULY 28 (SEE REFTTEL), AND EXPLAINED MISUNDERSTANDING AS STEMMING FROM DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT WAS SAID DURING U.S.-EC BILATERAL AT TIDEWATER, MARYLAND. EC HAD THOUGHT, ACCORDING TO ABBOTT, THAT ALTHOUGH U.S. HAD STATED A PREFERENCE FOR DEALING WITH ISSUES STEMMING FROM PROTOCOL OF PROVISIONAL APPLICATION (PPA) WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE MTN, U.S. HAD NO GENUINE

OBJECTION TO DISCUSSING DEFINITIVE ACCEPTANCE OF GATT IN CG-18. SUCH A DISCUSSION, HE ADDED, COULD HELP TO PINPOINT AREAS WHERE ACTION IN THE MTN MIGHT PAVE THE WAY FOR DEFINITIVE ACCEPTANCE.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF EC INTENTION TO KEEP ITEM ON AGENDA AND OUR LIKELY INABILITY TO REACH ANYONE AT EC WHO COULD TAKE DECISION TO REMOVE ITEM BEFORE ANNOTATED AGENDA IS CIRCULATED BY GATT, WE WONDER IF IT IS ADVISABLE FOR U.S. TO ATTEMPT TO GET EC TO REMOVE ITEM FROM AGENDA. DEFINITIVE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GATT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL BEFORE IN GATT, PARTICULARLY DURING 1954-1955 NINTH (REVIEW) SESSION AND AGAIN IN 1965, AND DISCUSSION IN CG-18 IS UNLIKELY TO EMBARRASS U.S. EVEN IF WE MERELY REPEAT WHAT WE SAID IN EC-U.S. BILTERAL. HAVING MADE OUR POINT ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE EC RAISED THE ISSUE, IT IS PROBABLY NOT WORTH THE EFFORT THAT WOULD BE NEEDED TO GET THE EC TO BACK DOWN AFTER HAVING PUBLICLY ASKED FOR THE AGENDA ITEM. THERE MAY ALSO COME A TIME WHEN THE U.S. WANTS TO PUT AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA TO WHICH THE EC OBJECTS, AND ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH AN IMPLICIT VETO ON AGENDA ITEMS MAY SET AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

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